

An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-304789-19



Case Reference/ Description	ABP-304789-19 – 10km of 110kV underground cable connecting the consented Moanvane Wind Farm to the national grid at Mount Lucas Substation, including modifications to the permitted substation at Moanvane, Co. Offaly		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
Meeting	1st		
Date	07/11/19	Start Time	14:33
Location	Offices of An Bord Pleanála	End Time	14:53

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Staff Member	Email Address	Phone
Rachel Kenny, Director of Planning (Chair)		
Ciara Kellett, Senior Planning Inspector		
Josephine Hayes, Senior Executive Officer		
Maeve Williams, Executive Officer	m.williams@pleanala.ie	018737287

Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Jim Hughes of Fehily Timoney Consultants	jim.hughes@ftco.ie	0214969521

The meeting commenced at 14:33.

Scope of meeting:

Following introductions, the representatives of the Board referred to the request under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act, 2001, as amended received from the prospective applicant to enter into pre-application consultations.

The Board advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board to determine whether the proposed development was SID or not and if so, what the key considerations may be. It also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters it wished to receive advice on from the Board.

The Board mentioned general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process as follows:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record in writing which will form part of the case file. An opportunity would also be given at any subsequent meeting to comment on the record.
- The Board will serve formal notice at the conclusion of the process as to whether or not the proposed development is SID. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process as to whether the proposed development would likely constitute strategic infrastructure.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.

The Board's representatives said that having regard to the documentation already received by the Board, it had been noted that the view of the prospective applicant was that the proposed development would not constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The Prospective Applicant's Presentation:

The prospective applicant made a presentation outlining the planning history for the proposed development, specifically case ABP-301619-18, resulting in permission granted for a 12-turbine wind farm including on-site substation. That project's EIAR also included an assessment of the subject 10km underground cable grid connection for which the prospective applicant was now seeking consent. Planning permission for the cable was not sought at the time.

The prospective applicant outlined that the proposed development now includes:

- Approximately 10km of underground 110kV cable comprising 7km on the public road, 2km within the permitted wind farm site and 1km on Bord Na Mona access track to Mount Lucas substation
- Amendments to the permitted on-site substation to accommodate new EirGrid specifications
- Upgrade to the existing Mount Lucas substation to accommodate connection

The upgrade of the proposed development to Mountlucas 110kV substation is necessary to accommodate the proposed connection, however at this early stage of the process it is unclear as to who will actually carry out the works, i.e. EirGrid or the Applicant.

An EIAR and a NIS will be submitted with the application.

The prospective applicant is of the opinion that the proposal is not SID because the windfarm node will not act as a node on the national transmission network and the 110kV cable will solely facilitate a single private development. The development tail feeds electricity from the permitted windfarm to the national grid at Mountlucas 110kV substation. It is likely that the grid connection will be contestably built and signed over to EirGrid once completed.

Discussion:

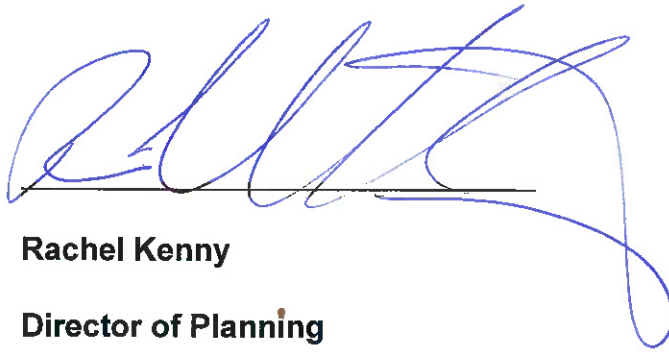
- **Permitted substation:** The Board sought clarification with respect to the proposed works to the previously permitted on-site substation. Initial documentation submitted by the prospective applicant indicated that there would be no physical changes. The prospective applicant confirmed that there are changes proposed as a result of ESB technical requirements and specifications, but all are contained within the existing redline boundary of the windfarm. The permitted substation has a footprint of 60m x 40m and this is proposed to change to 120m x 60m. The prospective applicant indicated that there are no plans to use the substation for any other purposes other than to serve the permitted wind farm. The Board advised that the application should incorporate the reasoning behind the new dimension's specification of the Moanvane substation.
- **Mount Lucas Substation:** The Board queried if works at Mount Lucas substation are to be included as part of the planning application. The prospective applicant stated that EirGrid have not determined whether or not the proposed development will form part of the transmission network as it is too early in the process and this application to EirGrid will not be decided upon until the next ECP which is not expected until Q2 2020. The works will be assessed as part of the EIAR and the NIS.
- **NIS:** The Board advised that if a NIS is to be included as part of the planning process, that Stage One screening for AA clearly justifies the sites taken forward for Stage Two.
- **Consultations:** Following a query from the Board, the prospective applicant stated that they had preliminary talks with Offaly County Council and both parties were satisfied with the proposed development, particularly due to the level of works in the public road.

Conclusions:

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. Following this, the prospective applicant should seek a second meeting with the Board or request closure to the pre-application process in writing. The prospective applicant indicated that they will be seeking closure of the process at the earliest opportunity.

If closure to the pre-application process is requested, the reporting inspector will complete the report and recommendation which will be forwarded to the Board for determination. A decision will then issue to the prospective applicant.

The meeting concluded at 14:53.



Rachel Kenny
Director of Planning